

REMARKS

Applicants have now considered the outstanding official action. It is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,829,159 (Hodgins).

Claims 4-8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are stated to would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 4 has been amended to be placed in independent form, claim 4 having been stated to be allowable except as to its dependency. Dependent claims 5-8 are also stated to be allowable except as to their dependencies. Claims 5-8 are multiple dependent claims. Accordingly, in view of their dependency on claim 4, such subcombination is now in condition for allowance. However, since claim 1 has also been amended and is now submitted to be in condition for allowance, applicants submit that all of the base claims to claims 5-8 are in condition for allowance. Thus, claims 5-8 have not been further amended at this time.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the description in the preamble is a limitation as to the claimed subject matter. Accordingly, the claimed beam

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assembly is constructed and arranged for connection to a tarpaulin for transfer of the tarpaulin through a tarpaulin handling machine. Hodgins, the newly cited reference, teaches a dryer section of a paper-making machine having a series of subsections including a pair of spaced plates, a pair of spaced frame assemblies, a series of cylindrical dryer cans and felt rolls, among other features. The claimed invention is distinct from such a structure. Accordingly, applicants submit that when all the limitations of claim 1 are taken into account that the claimed beam assembly is clearly distinct from the structure taught in Hodgins. Claim 2 in particular claims specific components in relation to the tarpaulin handling machine.


Accordingly, applicants submit that Hodgins does not teach each and every element of the claimed invention as necessary to anticipate within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §102. Withdrawal of the §102 rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Reconsideration and formal allowance of the claims is respectfully urged.

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Respectfully submitted,

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